

**MINUTES OF THE
COMMERCE AND WORKFORCE SERVICES
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**
Room S210, Senate Building, State Capitol Complex
February 3, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. David Hinkins, Co-Chairman
Rep. Michael Morley, Co-Chairman
Sen. Karen Mayne
Rep. Jim Bird
Rep. Susan Duckworth
Rep. Jim Dunnigan
Rep. Lynn Hemingway
Rep. Brian King
Rep. Ryan Wilcox

STAFF PRESENT: Danny Schoenfeld, Fiscal Analyst
Karen Mitchell, Committee Secretary

Note: A list of handouts and visitors list will be filed with committee minutes

Co-Chair Sen. Hinkins called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Labor Commission

Danny Schoenfeld, Fiscal Analyst, explained that the Labor Commission serves the citizens of Utah assuring a safe, healthful, fair, non-discriminatory work environment; assuring fair housing practices; and promoting safety in the work place.

He further stated that the base budget for the Commission had stayed somewhat stable over the last several years with a decrease of five FTEs since the last appropriation.

Touching upon the Performance Measures of the Commission Decisions, he explained that as the number of Utah employers and employees increases, the number of employment-related disputes presented to the Labor Commission also increases. Disputes need to be heard and decided with a minimum of delay. Wages collected have increased since 2007, prohibiting discrimination and requiring full payment of wages due. Boiler and Elevator Safety inspections minimizes the risk of serious injury to employees and also members of the public.

The Analyst recommends Agency Budget Requests from the new Industrial Accidents Restricted Account, created by Senate Bill 15 during the 2009 General Session, with \$1,900,000 ongoing restricted funds. This would allow the Labor Commission to transfer all the operations of the Industrial Accidents Division and a portion of the Adjudication budgets to the newly created Industrial Accidents Restricted Account. This would enable the department to return approximately \$300,000 on-going in General Funds for FY2011 which would allow the

subcommittee to reallocate funds to other spending priorities.

The Analyst recommends: 1) Adopt the base budget amount of \$61,992,900 million for the Labor Commission. 2) Consider the budget issues raised in the Issue Briefs.

The Analyst explained the various fees of the Commission and stated that the fees for the Department will remain stable, with no increases or decreases recommended at this time. He further discussed the Federal Fund Request for the Antidiscrimination and Occupational Safety and Health and recommends that the committee review them for further consideration.

The Analyst responded to questions from the committee regarding the Restricted Accounts.

Sen. Hinkins turned the time over to Sherrie Hayashi, Commissioner, for Agency Response. Ms.

Hayashi was assisted by David Lamb, Director. Mr. Lamb provided the committee with handouts. The Commissioner briefed the committee explaining the Agency's response to the budget cuts and provided a power point presentation.

Ms. Hayashi turned the time over to Ron Dressler, Acting Director, Division of Industrial Accidents, who stated that the mission of the Division is to assist in the resolution of work place injuries, and monitor compliance requirements for Utah's employers. He continued with a power point presentation explaining in detail the duties of the Division.

Ms. Hayashi and Mr. Dressler responded to questions from the committee pertaining to budget cuts of 20% since FY 2009 and the loss of 22 employees over the last 10 years, as well as the affect of the minimum wage on the workforce in the state. The committee thanked the Labor Commission for the effort they are making to help protect the citizens in Utah with safe places in which to work.

MOTION: Rep. Morley moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Hinkins adjourned the meeting at 2:48 p.m.

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